

As stated by the editor, this work is not a comprehensive review of the field of mycology and is not intended as a text for students. It is a compilation of articles representing current thought on various aspects of diagnosis, therapy, and research of fungal diseases, and is thus recommended as a source book.

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Dermatophytes in Human Skin, Hair and Nails,
James T. Sinski, Ph.D. Charles C Thomas,
Springfield, Illinois, 1974. (43 pp)

After a six-page introduction describing technical details about collection of material from human sources, 35 photomicrographs of fungi in skin, hair, and nail (one) are presented. The pictures include materials of nonmycotic origin, which might be confused with fungi. Most photographs, showing good contrast, were made from KOH preparations with the addition of Parker ink. This small volume can be useful only when supplemented with more complete mycologic texts, since the bewildered reader may look in vain even for explanations of the three genera of dermatophytes. It seems unorthodox to include *Candida* as a dermatophyte. More careful proofreading could have eliminated several typographical errors. The booklet will not be of great value to most laboratories or dermatologists concerned with mycologic diagnosis.

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Phototherapy in the Newborn: An Overview,
Robert Schaffer, Ph.D., Gerard B. Odell,
M.D., Artemis P. Simopoulos, M.D. (eds).
National Academy of Sciences Printing and
Publishing Office, Washington, D.C., 1975
(190 pp, \$9.00 paperback)

A significant segment of our newborn population is receiving visible light phototherapy each year for hyperbilirubinemia. This book consists of a selection of papers prepared by members of the Committee on Phototherapy in the Newborn, and presented at a symposium on phototherapy sponsored by this committee.

Although it is intended to be of interest to both researchers (photobiologists, photochemists, bioengineers, and physicists) and clinicians, it deals primarily with the photochemistry and photometabolism of bilirubin, and methods of measuring bile pigments in the serum. As such, it offers little for the practicing clinician.

The section dealing with radiometry of phototherapy is well written and compares the measurement of visible light by both radiometric (Joules) and photometric (lumens) techniques. It correctly points out that since the fluorescent lamps that are used in phototherapy emit radiation above and

below the visual region, photographic light meters should not be used to measure their irradiance. The sections dealing with the photooxidation of bilirubin provide a nice review of the reactions of excited triplet states and of singlet oxygen; reactions that are of fundamental importance in porphyrin photosensitization.

A major point to come out of this text is that the precise mechanism of bilirubin phototherapy is still obscure, and that although there do not appear to be any significant immediate or short-term effects of visible light phototherapy, the long-term effects (if any) remain to be identified.

As with other texts composed of selected papers and published proceedings of conferences, there is considerable overlap in the material covered in the various papers. In general the chapters are clearly written and well referenced. This book should be of interest to investigators dealing with the photometabolism of bilirubin and related compounds, and hopefully will spur further investigation in an area of obvious importance.

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Art, Sex and Symbol. The Mystery of Tattooing,
Surgeon Captain R. W. B. Scutt, R.N., and
Christopher Gotch. A. S. Barnes and Com-
pany, South Brunswick and New York, 1974
(205 pp, \$15.00)

This delightful book is the product of a collaborative effort by two individuals, each with a long-standing interest in tattooing: R. W. B. Scutt spent the Second World War as a surgeon in the Royal Navy and later trained as a dermatologist, and Christopher Gotch is an architect and journalist.

They have compiled a volume which is in large part an art book, yet is also an excellent source book on tattooing. All aspects are discussed: its history, evolution, techniques, sexual and psychological aspects, mythology, and medical considerations. The text is written in an informal fashion. The bias of the authors is evident: they find tattoos fascinating and quite socially acceptable. In one chapter there is the description as well as illustration of a tattoo being applied to one of the authors by a modern Japanese master, Hori-Bun.

As might be expected, the more than 220 illustrations in black and white and in color are one of the most intriguing aspects of the book. The 16-page color atlas is of excellent quality.

Art, Sex and Symbol is an admirable book which would be equally enjoyable and useful in the library of an office or hospital or on display on the living room table. It will be equally appealing to professional colleagues as well as one's friends and children!

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